

RAILROADERS SIGN TRUCE AND MAY YET AVERT STRIKE

Agreement Between Brotherhoods and the Managers of the Lines Affected To Last Until Six O'Clock Monday Evening

MEN AND OFFICIALS ARE NOW REPORTED OPTIMISTIC

Secretary Lane and Secretary Wilson Announce that They Are More Than Hopeful That Industrial War May Be Prevented

(Associated Press by Federal Wireless.)

NEW YORK, March 18.—Forty-eight hours respite has been assured by the successful mediation of the federal mediation committee, headed by Franklin K. Lane, secretary of the interior on Mr. Wilson's cabinet. As a result there was optimism in the ranks of the railroad men last night that the strike could be postponed indefinitely and might be called off altogether, if agreement with the roads can be reached, which now seems possible.

W. G. Lee, head of the trainmen's union, is among the optimistic ones, for last night he issued a statement in which he asserted that "I believe that we shall be able to reach an agreement on Monday, that will avert the necessity of a strike."

He pointed out that there might be a number of minor strikes late last night and today, in isolated sections of the country where the railroad workers had been called out and had not been notified of the change in the plans of the brotherhood and the announcement of the forty-eight hour truce.

Another official of the brotherhoods, who declined to allow his name to be used, declared that there will not be any strike, as the pressure of public opinion has been making itself too plainly felt by the railroad men.

The announcement of the truce was made yesterday afternoon by Mr. Lane, who issued the following statement: "At our request and out of appreciation of the international situation, the brotherhoods and railroad managers have resumed negotiations. In the hope that some adjustment may be effected which will avoid the necessity of a strike, the brotherhoods have wired or telephoned to the general chairmen asking that all action be postponed 48 hours."

A joint conference between the federal mediators, representatives of the brotherhoods and the managers will be held today and negotiations for a permanent settlement resumed.

The forty-eight-hour postponement of the strike dates from seven o'clock last night, Eastern time—at an hour when the strike was to have been in effect.

"Undoubtedly there is hope," said Secretary Lane last night. Secretary of Labor Wilson, also one of the mediators, said that he concurs with Lane. "I think," he commented, "the men on both sides feel better toward each other than they did."

The willingness of the brotherhoods to postpone the strike hour is declared by railway representatives to be the most important concession the brotherhoods have made since negotiations first began last August. The belief is expressed on behalf of the railroads, that a strike will be prevented.

The possibility that on Monday the United States Supreme Court might render a decision on the constitutionality of the Adamson eight-hour law is a factor in the situation which is being considered by both sides.

Secretary Lane announces that a concrete proposition has been submitted to both sides, but its terms are not disclosed at present.

BROTHERHOOD MEN SEEK TO ENJOIN ANY STRIKE

PHILADELPHIA, March 17.—A bill in equity to prevent the railroad brotherhoods from calling a strike within the State of Pennsylvania was filed in the federal district court here today by an attorney for members of the brotherhoods themselves.

The bill declares that the strike would be contrary to the union regulations, and that the refusal to arbitrate is contrary to the bylaws of the brotherhoods. It is declared that the bill to strike was obtained last summer by arbitrary action of the chiefs of the unions, who did not comply with the bylaws. It is alleged that the strike ballot is not in effect now, as it was obtained eight months ago when conditions were not in the critical stage they are now. It is also alleged that the strike ballot was cancelled last fall when the Adamson eight-hour bill was enacted into law.

GRAND DUKE INSISTS ON APPROVAL OF THE PEOPLE

(Associated Press by Federal Wireless.)

LONDON, March 18.—The Grand Duke Michael, selected by the Czar Nicholas to succeed the former Czar on the throne of the Romanoffs, has declined to accept the post until a vote of the people of Russia, shall have counter-signed the appointment of the late ruler. Until that plebiscite is held and the result announced, he declines to assume the dignity of the position, as he made very plain yesterday in a formal manifesto which he issued soon after the announcement of his selection for the throne.

The attitude of the Grand Duke Michael was made plain in a despatch from a semi-official news agency in Petrograd yesterday afternoon. The statement declares:

"The Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich, in accepting the throne from his brother, declares that he does so only with the consent of the people who should by plebiscite establish a new form of government with new fundamental laws."

A Reuter's despatch says that Petrograd is now controlled by committees formed of garrison and civilian representatives, under the presidency of the commandant of the Fourth Guard Corps.

Meantime the revolt is growing in power throughout Russia. The Czar Nicholas is unharmed, although his whereabouts is still unknown. It is believed that he is still in the Sretogorsky monastery in Pskoff, where he abdicated, while other reports declare that he is a prisoner in the parliament house in Petrograd.

The Czarina and her little son, are reported to be safe in Finland, but this report is as yet without substantiation.

ZEPPELIN BROUGHT DOWN

Thirty Charred Bodies In Wreckage

(Associated Press by Federal Wireless.)

PARIS, March 18.—The German Zeppelin L-39 was shot down yesterday by anti-aircraft guns near Compeigne and the crew lost their lives in the disaster. The gigantic air-craft was brought to the ground by the anti-aircraft guns of the French, and caught fire as she neared the earth. Coming down her crew appeared to lose their heads for a number leaped from the gondolas. Thirty bodies, most of them partially burned were found in the wreckage of the Zeppelin. As soon as the dirigible was hit her crew began to throw overboard the bombs that she carried, but these fell into the soft earth of a field and failed to explode.

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and it is possible that she is still in Russia. With one or two exceptions of the garrisons of the large military posts throughout European Russia have already joined the revolution and have thrown their lot in with the revolutionists. The force that has been guarding Helsingfors, however, is an exception, and yesterday reports from that city indicated that there had been fighting between the monarchists garrison and the revolutionists. Statements from Petrograd, credited to a "diplomat," last night declared that the revolt started when the police killed three hundred hungry men and women who were protesting against starvation conditions in the capital. The Cossacks were then called upon and refused to attack the people, fraternizing with them and turning their weapons against the police.

(Associated Press by Federal Wireless.)

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GOVERNOR PINKHAM BALKS PLANS FOR PROTECTING PORT

(Associated Press by Federal Wireless.)

Refuses To Forward Harbor Board's Appeal To Washington For Assistance

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